

The Ranger Gameday

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Last Meeting - February 4, 2009: Rincon/University 66 Sunnyside 50

SUNNYSIDE BLUE DEVILS (4-3)

VS.

RINCON/UNIVERSITY RANGERS (6-3)

Tonight's Matchup:

In the last game before the winter break, the key for the Rangers will be shutting down the Blue Devils outside shooting, Ryan Rosthenhausler in particular. He has made 22 three-pointers already this season and is shooting over 40%. Last year, Rincon allowed him 10 made threes at Sunnyside. Rosthenhausler leads Sunnyside in scoring at 16.3 ppg, while Bryant Hendricks is the only other Devil averaging in double digits. Hendricks is also contributing almost five assists per game. Sunnyside's weak point is at the line, where they are shooting a combined 46%. The Rangers could really use this victory to move to 2-0 in the region before the break. They will travel to Bradshaw Mountain on Dec. 28-30 to try to defend their Holiday Hoops Classic title.

Rincon 81 Yuma 19

This game does not need much explanation. The Rangers jumped out to a 38-0 lead before the Criminals made a free throw. It was 44-3 before Yuma made their first field goal. Rincon pulled off the press late in the first quarter but still continued to dominate. 11 Rangers scored including four in double-digits. Believe it or not, Yuma has already won Rincon five power points by beating San Luis. The Criminals play in by far the weakest region in 5A and may be able to get three wins each over San Luis and Gila Ridge. The Rangers are now into region play but still have non-region games against CDO, Nogales, and Flowing Wells in January. At the end of the season, the Palo Verde loss may come back to haunt the Rangers as they seek a top seed.

Southern Region Preview

Six of the seven 5A Southern teams will make the region tournament and it seems that the most likely team to be left out is Sunnyside. Mountain View has had trouble scoring and Buena may be too young and inexperienced but the other four teams should all be in contention. Tucson High returns its top two scorers from last season, Shakir Smith and Sama Taku. Salpointe has proved to be the surprise team so far this season, led by juniors Emilio Acedo and Colby Weaver. Ironwood Ridge is once again the frontrunner, aided by 7'0", 330 lb. transfer Jan Mahlen. The question mark is point guard Lawrence Hampton, who is currently ineligible and dropped out for a week earlier this semester. If he returns next semester, the Nighthawks are state favorites.

Rincon 61 Mountain View 32

Rincon started Southern Region play with a solid win over the host Mountain Lions last night. The size advantage of Mountain View paled in comparison to the guard advantage of the Rangers. While big man Demetrius Morant altered many shots, the ability of Rincon's perimeter players to break down the Mountain View defense was the key. Billy Morrison and Juan Pablo Favela led the Rangers with 14 each, but this was another night in which 11 Rangers scored. The Mountain Lion's leading scorers Josh Goshen and Scott Volpe were held down. Goshen had only two points on the night and Volpe had only six after having to sit a substantial amount of time after picking up four fouls in the first half. Mountain View has no break as they face Ridge tonight.

Next Home Game: Tuesday 1/6/09 vs Buena

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Next Home Game: Tuesday 1/6/09 vs Buena